

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 07107 021148Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----129234 021150Z /75
Z 021135Z MAY 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5163
USMISSION GENEVA FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 07107

EXDIS

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

FOR WOLFF (STR) FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, ETRD, RP, MTN
SUBJECT: US-PHILIPPINE MTN NEGOTIATIONS: COCONUT OIL
- AND PLYWOOD

1. NEED IMMEDIATE REPLY FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S
DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS. REQUEST RESPONSE BY
7 A.M. MANILA TIME. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE CAN RE-
AFFIRM THAT USG REMAINS WILLING TO REDUCE TARIFF ON
COCONUT OIL TO ZERO (PER OUR TROPICAL PRODUCTS
NEGOTIATIONS OFFER) IF PHILIPPINE CONTRIBUTION IS
ADEQUATE. HOW DO WE EXPLAIN REASON FOR OUR MORE RECENT
OFFER OF LESSER REDUCTION TO 2.3 PERCENT?

2. WOULD BE IMMENSELY HELPFUL IF VICE PRESIDENT COULD
GIVE SOME ROUGH INDICATION OF WHAT EXTENT OF PHILIPPINE
CONTRIBUTION WE WOULD CONSIDER ADEQUATE TO JUSTIFY OUR
REDUCTION TO ZERO, E.G. IN ADDITION TO ELIMINATION OF
PHILIPPINE LICENSING REQUIREMENT ON SOYBEANS AND SOYBEAN
PRODUCTS.

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3. REASON FOR FOREGOING DEGREE OF INTEREST AND DETAIL
IS THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS RAISED THIS AS ONE OF FIRST
MATTERS IN RIDE FROM AIRPORT RECEPTION INTO MANILA.
VICE PRESIDENT WISHES TO RESPOND AS INFORMATIVELY AS
POSSIBLE TO MARCOS.

4. RE MAHOGONY PLYWOOD, MARCOS ARGUED THAT EVEN WITH FULL US REDUCTION PHILIPPINE PLYWOOD CONTINUES TO BE UNDERCUT IN US MARKET BY JAPANESE (SIC) PLYWOOD IMPORTS INTO US. WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THIS ARGUMENT RE JAPANESE, BUT CAN UNDERSTAND THAT KOREAN OR TAIWAN PLYWOOD MIGHT BE MORE COMPETITIVE. ASSUME THERE ARE NO CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH WE COULD COMPENSATE IN TERMS OF OUR PLYWOOD OFFER TO GOP, FOR SUCH ORDINARY COMPETITIVE FACTORS, BUT PLEASE INCLUDE ANY INSIGHTS YOU MIGHT HAVE INTO REASON FOR MARCOS RAISING THIS ARGUMENT. STULL

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Message Attributes

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